



Leader Talking Points Soldier Holiday Leave Safety Campaign 2021-2022



- SMA Michael Grinston: The holiday period, from Thanksgiving through New Year's, is one of our most anticipated times of year. As NCO leaders, as you prepare for the holidays, think about safety and risk management before your teammate begin their leaves. We are Soldiers, and we know and follow standards 24/7. We are leaders, and we take care of our people 24/7. Safety is the most precious gift we can give this holiday season.
- The Soldier holiday leave period begins 20 Nov 2021, the week before Thanksgiving, and ends 7 January 2022, the full week after New Year's Day.
- The Soldier holiday leave period is the second-deadliest time of year for off-duty Soldier mishaps. Only the summer months have more recorded fatalities annually.
- Looking at the past five years, the Army loses approximately 11 Soldiers during the holiday season, with most at the rank of E-3 or E-4. An average of nine to 10 fatalities occur in private motor vehicles (PMVs).
- During the 2020-2021 Soldier holiday leave period, our Army lost eight Soldiers to off-duty fatal mishaps; six to PMV4, one to a privately owned weapon mishap, and one to a dirt bike mishap that was classified as a sports and recreation mishap.
- PMV mishaps result in more Soldier fatalities than any other type of mishap - during the holiday period, and year-round.
- FY21 PMV-2 Fatalities (motorcycles – throughout the year)
 - Weekend/Holiday: 68%
 - Time:
 - 0600 -1800: 59%
 - 1800 -0559: 41%
 - Gender
 - Male: 100%
 - Female: 0%
 - Age
 - 18-23: 9%
 - 24-29: 73%
 - 30-34: 14%
 - 35 and Older: 4%
 - Grade
 - E1-E4: 45%
 - E5-E6: 32%
 - E7-E9: 18%
 - WO/O1-3: 5%

- WO/O4-6: 0%
 - Alcohol known/suspect: 22% (based on analysis of time/circumstances)
 - Speeding: 27% (confirmed by reporting)
 - Reported Basic Rider Course Qualified: 100%
 - Reported Helmet worn: 95%
 - Suspected Soldier Error: 59% (based on brief descriptions in mishap reports)
- FY21 PMV-4 Fatalities (sedans, pickup trucks, SUVs – throughout the year)
 - Weekend/Holiday: 52%
 - Time:
 - 0600 -1800: 42%
 - 1800 -0559: 58%
 - Gender
 - Male: 95%
 - Female: 5%
 - Age
 - 18-23: 15%
 - 24-29: 67%
 - 30-34: 3%
 - 35 and Older: 15%
 - Grade
 - E1-E4: 60%
 - E5-E6: 18%
 - E7-E9: 8%
 - WO/O1-3: 11%
 - WO/O4-6: 3%
 - Alcohol known/suspect: 32% (based on analysis of time/circumstances)
 - Speeding: 18% (confirmed by reporting)
 - Reported non-use of seatbelts: 10%
 - Suspected Soldier Error 81% (based on brief descriptions in mishap reports)
- Alcohol use.
 - The hazards of drinking during the holidays are different from other times of year, because of proximity and opportunity. Alcohol is more readily available, and with time off, Soldiers could be tempted to drink past their limits.
 - Alcohol, speeding and failure to wear a seat belt are the most prevalent combinations reported in Army automobile mishaps year-round, not just during the holidays.
 - At least 25% of Army holiday leave mishap fatalities during the past five fiscal years involved alcohol. That number could be higher because of delays in reporting from civilian law enforcement agencies.
 - Privately owned weapons and alcohol are a particularly deadly mix. All fatal weapons mishaps reported Army-wide the past five holiday seasons involved alcohol. Drinking is also reported in the majority of Army weapons fatalities year-round.
 - Drinking can lead to a cascade of indiscipline. Alcohol involved with speeding and failure to wear a seat belt are the most prevalent combinations reported in Army PMV mishaps year-round, not just during the holidays.

- While the dangers of drinking and driving are well known, alcohol slows judgment and reaction time in every activity, not just driving.
 - At least 25% of Army holiday leave mishap fatalities during the past five fiscal years involved alcohol. That number could be higher due to delays in reporting from civilian law enforcement agencies.
 - Privately owned weapons (POWs) and alcohol are a particularly deadly mix. All fatal POW mishaps reported Army-wide the past five holiday seasons involved alcohol. Drinking is also reported in the majority of Army POW fatalities year-round.
 - The hazards of drinking during the holidays are different from other times of year, due primarily to proximity and opportunity. Alcohol is more readily available, and with time off, Soldiers could be tempted to drink past their limits.
- Engaged and effective leaders influence behaviors
 - A safe, mishap-free holiday begins well before Soldiers begin their travels.
 - Although Soldiers are often away from their units during the holidays, their leaderships' influence can still have a strong impact on their behaviors.
 - Data from the Army Readiness Assessment Program (ARAP) shows that units that prioritize safety and implement an effective safety culture experience fewer off-duty mishaps
- The risk posed by driving in winter weather conditions and around active wildlife, while important to mitigate, are secondary to the “get-home-itis” many Soldiers will experience once their leave date rolls around.
- Behavior-based errors — speeding, failure to wear seat belts, fatigue — are the most prevalent factors in PMV mishaps, with alcohol use being the greatest contributing factor in holiday block leave fatalities.
- Safely arriving at your holiday destination is only half the battle. Most holiday leave mishaps occur in or around the Soldier's local area, not on the trip to or from the leave location.
- Intersections with stop signs, rural highways and two-lane roads are particularly dangerous, especially when combined with the behavioral-based errors described above.
- Dynamic risk management is the Army standard for every mission, meaning we adjust plans as conditions change. Off duty, that might be pulling over for bad weather, recognizing you're too tired to drive and stopping for the night, or calling a cab if you've been drinking. There's always an alternative to unnecessary risk.
- Available tools.
 - First-line supervisors counseling Soldiers prior to leave or pass saves lives. While no longer an Army requirement, the Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) (<https://trips.safety.army.mil>) provides leaders a platform to engage their Soldiers on PMV and travel safety.

- The Off-Duty Safety Awareness Presentation (<https://safety.army.mil/odsap>) has proven effective for leaders looking to talk to their Soldiers beyond the standard safety brief. The complete presentation contains information regarding off-duty mishaps, graphics and embedded videos as well as speaker notes. Topics include private motor vehicles (PMVs), privately owned weapons (POWs), pedestrian safety, water-related activities, sports-related activities, and home safety. The In the Spotlight Series is a breakout of the individual topics in separate presentations.
- Small Unit Leader Cards provide mishap statistics and talking points to engage Soldiers on off-duty safety and risk management. The cards are customizable to highlight high-risk areas local to the installation and formatted to print at wallet size for easy portability. Download the cards at:
(<https://safety.army.mil/OFF-DUTY/Small-Unit-Leader-Cards>)
- Remedial Driver Training (RDT) is an eight-hour, instructor led classroom course addressing the root causes of aggressive driving. Provided via contractor at installations, the training combines instruction, skits, games, videos, student-instructor interaction and student-student interaction to help drivers acknowledge their negative driving habits and attitudes. The goal is to give students a toolkit to change their behavior and decision-making processes behind the wheel. According to the American Institute for Public Safety, independent studies have shown RDT to be effective in reducing vehicle collisions by 64 to 74%. Unit leaders seeking to obtain RDT training for their Soldiers should contact their garrison safety office or sign up using AIRS at the following link:
<https://imc.army.mil/airs/default.aspx>
- The Travel Risk Planning System, commonly known as TRiPS, is an online interactive planning tool that assists private motor vehicle operators in assessing the risk and providing recommended controls to mitigate their risk for upcoming driving trips they plan to take outside of the local area. Although TRiPS is no longer an Army-level requirement for leave travel, it remains a valuable tool for units and personnel that would still like to use it as a risk mitigation-driving tool. It's designed to facilitate a conversation between leaders and their subordinates regarding their subordinates travel plans in an effort to reduce the number of PMV injuries and fatalities.
Access TRiPS at:
<https://trips.safety.army.mil/TRiPS>